

THE DAILY ILLINI
3 Feb 1970

STATINTL



by/Dick Gregory

Every listing of the year's best films places the movie "Z" very high on the list. Rightly so. It is educational cinema and should be viewed after a careful reading of the synopsis of the Conspiracy 8/7 Trial in Chicago.

Though filmed in France and referring to a political situation in Greece, "Z" deals with topics increasingly familiar in America — government control, the attempt of concerned citizens to articulate a higher morality, and the resort to assassination as a sure way to silence both dissent and morality.

In the movie, the peace faction is the "enemy" of established government. Rallies and mass meetings are discouraged and frustrated by subtle little officialities like denials of meeting permits and pressuring proprietors of meeting places to refuse rental privileges to the peace faction. After a mass meeting, the peace leader is run down by a truck. An investigation is launched and the unmistakable evidence points in the direction of assassination by government goons.

Result: vindication of accused government officials, jailing or killing of all those wise to the government conspiracy (all under the umbrella of accidental death and due legal process) and, in the end, government by dictatorship.

But what has this to do with America, the silent majority will say? For one thing, it deals with a very real situation in Greece. And America, whose governmental gut characteristic has never been an aversion to interfering in the affairs of other nations, stood silently by and watched democracy fall. Then America's silence was broken when she officially recognized the newly established military dictatorship in Greece. That's the same America which goes all over the world trying to force democracy on other nations at gunpoint.

The "Z" syndrome runs deeper in America, and the Greece scenario could well be a glimpse at America's not-too-distant future. Americans were horrified and outraged when the late Malcolm X referred to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy as an example of "Chickens coming home to roost." What passed as a flippant and callous disregard for the memory of the dead President was really a perceptive political comment.

Malcolm X realized the role of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in the overthrow of foreign governments and the killing off of political leaders. He was merely pointing out that an agency well-schooled in the art of overthrowing gov-

ernments is likely to apply that art one day on our own government.

There is no doubt in my mind that the CIA shot JFK and had a hand in the subsequent killings of Robert Kennedy, Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr. The

lost of mysterious and convenient deaths following the assassination of JFK bears a strong resemblance to the movie "Z." That the CIA is actively capable of close and illegal surveillance is proved in my personal experience almost every day.

As I travel in this country and abroad, I am constantly followed and watched. I know that hotel rooms are bugged and wired, that two-way mirrors are installed, right in the nation's capitol, as pointed out in Justice William O. Douglas' new book, "Points of Rebellion." And I also know my deep and abiding faith in the Constitution of the United States and my commitment to humanity in general. If a man of my ethical persuasion, moral standards, and honest orientation can be considered a "security risk" by the CIA, I must conclude that the CIA is worried about its own security and not that of the United States.

Yet the CIA is generally regarded as a necessary presence to guard against "communist influences." Such a point of view sells the CIA expertise short and gives so-called communist influences more credit than they are due. The CIA is better-trained, better-equipped and better-prepared than any communist-influenced group or individual in this country will ever be. If governmental takeover results in America, it will be the CIA's doing, not the communists!

Consider for example, the awesome expertise that has been developed in the area of germ warfare. Only the CIA would possess the sophistication to use germ warfare and totally wipe out any particular group of people in this country and pass it off as an epidemic. Few people would question or suspect, just as few have really questioned the tragic assassinations in America.

The CIA has been very active infiltrating movements and institutions at home—the church, educational institutions, the news media, large foundations (which finance both movements and institutions), and the youth/peace movement. Such infiltration runs much deeper than a kind of political voyeurism.

Perhaps it would take a governmental overthrow by unsuspected forces within the government itself to make the majority of Americans realize what a precious

commodity true democracy really is; much too precious to be mocked and ridiculed by the current infatuation with pseudo-patriotism.

It will be a sad day for many Americans when events force them to realize that men like Mark Lane and District Attorney Jim Garrison, though voices crying in a wilderness of rejection, were really the true patriots of our land. Democracy lost will be democracy appreciated, and perhaps the only real incentive to making it work right once and for all.

MORI/CDF